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National standardization: office treatment of names

Online service for settlement names in Finland

Summary**

The Institute for the Languages of Finland published an index of Finnish settlement names in 2016. It is freely available online at http://kaino.kotus.fi/asutusnimihakemisto/ and lists the names of all Finnish towns and municipalities, in addition to providing a rich collection of village names. The index, updated regularly and with some 21,000 entries, is most of all intended for journalists, translators and the authorities, who need to correctly use settlement names in their work. The online service responds to resolutions I/4, VII/5 and VII/9 of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The index is primarily intended to inform users about the correct inflection of names. Users can also verify the recommended spelling of a name and the name of an inhabitant (demonym) of an existing or former municipality. Users can also check the location of a place. The index lists the province in which each municipality is located and, in the case of settlements smaller than a municipality, gives the name of the municipality and the province.

The online material includes mostly Finnish-language names. Corresponding Swedish-language names are listed from bilingual regions, together with some Sami-language names from northern Finland. In addition to the names of the cities, municipalities and villages, the index contains names referring to parts of villages and cities and to residential areas if information on their usage has been available. Also included are some names of places of business and cultural sites. Names of individual farms and estates are not included.

Some names have been linked to the MapSite service of the National Land Survey of Finland (https://asiointi.maanmittauslaitos.fi/karttapaikka/), which gives access to maps depicting settlements and their location. Some data also come with maps showing the coverage of the possible inflections of certain types of names.

* E/CONF.105/1

** The full report was prepared by Tiina Manni-Lindqvist, Institute for the Languages of Finland. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/77/CRP.77.

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